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EPA'S FOREST USE CHEMICALS PROJECT

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting an ambitious study to examine major chemicals used for forest pest control and timber management.

The purpose of the million dollar study is to develop an "advisory document" presenting to the public EPA's views and recommendations regarding chemical and non-chemical treatments for five "representative types of timber production systems." This means the document will probably represent EPA's enforcement policy relative to pesticide use in certain forest situations.

Based on EPA's revised program plan, the Agency will be studying site preparation and conifer release in five different geographical locations in the United States. A look at spruce budworm control in Maine and northern California are also included in the revised study plan. A final document is scheduled to be completed in 1981.

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR SPRUCE BUDWORM

The USDA Forest Service, and the Maine Bureau of Forestry, are cooperating in the preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for implementing an Integrated Management System to protect spruce and fir forests against Spruce Budworm in Northern Maine.

The Final Environmental Statement, incorporating silvicultural, as well as chemical and biological control methods, is scheduled for completion and filing in January.

PESTICIDE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL - NEW REGULATIONS

Regulations affecting many forest land managers and other pesticide users were published in the Federal Register (FR) on May 19. They are the Hazardous Waste Management System regulations which come under the Resource Conservation and Recover Act of 1976 (RCRA).

The regulations will control the way we transport, store, and dispose of certain pesticides and other hazardous wastes; they become effective in a few weeks on November 19.

According to the regulations, anyone who stores, disposes of, transports, or offers for transport a hazardous waste, must obtain an EPA identification number and notify EPA of their activity. Identification numbers and reporting forms (EPA Form 8700-12) are obtained from any of the ten EPA Regional Administrators. Reports must be filed no later than March 1 for hazardous wastes disposed of the previous calendar year. Also, hazardous wastes intended for disposal can only be stored for 90 days without a storage permit. Permits can also be obtained from the EPA Regional Administrators.

Several hundred chemical products are listed in the regulations as hazardous wastes when discarded or intended to be discarded. The list contains many pesticides being used in our forests and on our nurseries. Aldicarb, amitrole, creosote, dimethoate, dinoseb, endosulfan, heptachlor, pronamide, toxaphene, and 2,4-D are examples of those listed; 2,4,5-T and silvex are also listed.

Many of us are holding 2,4,5-T and silvex in storage in anticipation of use following the cancellation hearings. These are not considered toxic wastes.

The regulations contain considerable more information and detail than provided here; they should be read and studied by anyone responsible for pesticide storage, use, transportation, or disposal. Copies can be obtained from EPA Regional offices. Questions can be directed to the FIDM Pesticide Specialist in Broomall.

SUPPLEMENTAL LABELS

Glyphosate, sold as Roundup® (EPA Reg. No. 524-308) may be a good substitute for 2,4,5-T. Under a supplemental label approved by EPA on 8 July, Roundup® may be applied using aerial equipment for silvicultural site preparation, conifer release (except for certain SE States), and rights-of-way treatments.

For the Nurseries, Bifenox sold as Mowdown[®] (EPA Reg. No. 2224-50), and oxyfluorfen, sold as GOAL[®] 2E (EPA Reg. No. 707-154), have supplemental labels expanding their use to conifer seed beds.

EPA PROPOSES TO CANCEL MOST LINDANE USE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published its position document (PD 2/3) on lindane in the Federal Register on 3 July. The document is EPA's response to the lindane RPAR (Rebuttable Presumption Against Registration). The lindane RPAR was issued on the basis of suspected (1) oncogenicity, (2) reproductive and fetotoxic effects, and (3) acute toxicity to aquatic organisms. EPA has determined that the risk criteria for oncogenicity and reproductive/fetotoxic effects have not been rebutted successfully and that the risks associated with the continued use of lindane are greater than any of the social, economic, and environmental benefits.

The agency proposes to cancel registrations of lindane for most uses including: seed treatment, christmas trees, forestry, and ornamentals (home owners use). EPA also proposes to cancel (with a 2 year phase out period) all lindane registrations for hardwood logs and lumber.

Commercial uses of lindane on ornamentals will be retained if product labels are modified to include:

1. Restricted use classification.
2. Requirement to use protective clothing and equipment.
3. Inclusion of certain label warning statements to users, women, and parents of young children.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry, is updating the Herbicide Handbook. The handbook is a compilation of approximately 170 herbicide product labels commonly used in forestry and forest related activities.

Revisions to the handbook will reflect changes in label registrations and provide a new "key" to the labels. The new "key" gives more information than before and makes labels more readily accessible. If interested, a mailing list is being compiled by Forest Insect and Disease Management staff in Broomall, PA.

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